Sen. Dodd Cued for German Talks

By Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson

Sen. Thomas J. Dodd's strange mission to West Germany at the behest of the Julius Klein public relations firm succeeded in impressing its clients and, presumably, in preventing the cancellation of some juicy contracts.

Pearson

Gen. Julius Klein, the founder, wrote Dodd jubilantly after his trip: "I had a very nice letter from former Chancellor Adenauer and am very pleased. I heard many fine things about your recent mission to Germany for the Senate.

"I presume, Tom, you will write the various people you saw over there and if you do, I would appreciate it if you would add a PS: 'I was indeed glad to discuss with you also the fine work of our mutual good friend, General Klein.'"

Klein has handled his West German clients shrewdly. He got their public relations business in the first place by capitalizing on the fact that he was a past commander of the Jewish American War Veterans at a time when the Germans were eager to prove they were no longer anti-Semitic.

Among his leading backers were Hermann Abs, one of the leading financiers of the Hitler regime, and Dr. Hans Globke, who allegedly drafted anti-Jewish decrees for the Nazis.

Klein boosted his value to these Germans by persuading Sen. Dodd, a former prosecutor of Nazi war crimes, to deliver speeches, sign letters, and entertain clients for him.

Erhard Less Friendly

Klein established his closest ties with former Chancellor Adenauer, who wanted to rebuild German military might as a bulwark against communism. The old Chancellor's retirement has weakened Klein's position. For the new leaders, Chancellor Erhard and Foreign Minister Gerhard Schroeder, are more moderate in their attitude toward the Soviet Union.

Klein noted this in the secret background memos, which he furnished Sen. Dodd. These were used by the Senator as a guide in touting Klein to West German leaders.

The background memo on Schroeder, for example, cautioned Dodd: "Dr. Schroeder speaks English fluently. Somehow, unfortunately, he has become anti-Adenauer. Therefore, his mind might be prejudiced against me.

"With Schroeder . . . be very emphatic that you hope his office will continue to support the Wiesbaden group which engaged me to handle the political public relations.

"Without this support, the job comes to a halt and irreparable harm will be done as, in spite of loss of business and clients, I have continued with my work under heavy expense."

Of course, Klein was most concerned over how Dodd would handle Chancellor Erhard. To make sure Dodd didn't muff his lines, Klein wrote out exactly what the Senator was supposed to say.

"We are very much disturbed to hear," Dodd was instructed to tell the Chancellor, "that due to the distortions in the German press and inaccurate reports that the role Gen. Klein played in the political public relations field has been misunderstood . . .

"There has been no criticism of Gen. Klein in connection with the (Senate) hearings. On the contrary, he received praise and tribute from members of the Congress on both sides of the aisle . . .

"You may know that I was one of the prosecutors at the Nuremberg trials, and I have been a member of the Congress for many years," Dodd was supposed to add. "I worked closely with President Johnson when he was a Democratic leader in the Senate, and I had the honor of nominating him at the San Francisco convention in 1960 against Kennedy. (The convention actually was held in Los Angeles.)

Congress and Klein

"We in the Congress who are working day and night have to rely on the assistance and help of Gen. Klein in giving us proper briefings, research material and other vital information of interest to the United States in regard to the German Federal Republic.

"The wounds of the Hitler era have not healed and never will heal, as the present Auschwitz trials show. The Communists and left-wingers are taking advantage of this and are utilizing the trials and the Hitler period for propaganda purposes in the United States.

"To offset this, we Americans have to act, and that of course can't be done by ambassadors and consulates. Therefore, the help of General Klein and his organization has been of great assistance to us."

These are the highlights of the little speech that Klein prepared for Dodd to deliver to Erhard.

Dodd's performance, as reported back to Klein by his German contacts, was masterful. Pleased, Klein quickly arranged new tasks for the Senator to perform.

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